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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,818	03/22/2004	Chun Kong Li	203248-0094	1485
1131	7590	12/30/2005	EXAMINER	
MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLC 401 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE SUITE 1900 CHICAGO, IL 60611-4212			MCGRAW, TREVOR EDWIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3752	

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/805,818	Applicant(s) LI, CHUN KONG	
	Examiner Trevor McGraw	Art Unit 3752	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Elkins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,275,908, Figures 1-5). In regard to claim 1, Elkins et al. discloses a ball and socket joint assembly that has a ball (16), collar (32) and an annular skirt (28) that surrounds the collar (32) where a passageway extends through the ball and annular skirt arrangement (Figure 3).
2. In regard to claim 2, 11 and 12, in column 6 lines 47-59, Elkins et al. fully discloses that any material piece or part disclosed in figures 1-4 may have an exterior finish applied to it for an improved aesthetic appearance when preferred or be made of various materials such as metal.
3. In regard to claims 3 and 4, in column 6, lines 60-68 thru column 7, lines 1-10 and column 7, lines 59-68 thru column 8, lines 1-6, Elkins et al. further makes known that the ball and collar (32) arrangement can in fact have a threaded coupling element or other coupling means incorporated into the assembly for connecting to a plumbing device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 5-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Elkins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,275,908, Figures 6-8). In regard to applicant claims 5-10, Elkins et al. teaches in figures 6 a ball (neck-82 and annular skirt-80) that has a collar that is surrounded by a skirt containing a protruding lip which is a connecting means for a secure interfering snap engagement of the collar and skirt arrangement in column 3, lines 27-45, columns 5, columns 6 and column 8, lines 10-42 of Elkins et al.

5. In regard to claims 13-15, Elkins et al. figure 3 and 4 further disclose a ball component that has a collar, passageway, skirt that surrounds and holds the collar that is configured to be attached to a water device that is a showerhead.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In paragraph [0026], line 5 and paragraph [0027] lines 1, 3 and 7, the use of number 46 is directed to disclose --flutes--and --grooves--. Appropriate correction is required.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement was not filed and fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document;

each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trevor McGraw whose telephone number is (571) 272-7375. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (2nd & 4th Friday Off).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Scherbel can be reached on (571) 272-4919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Trevor McGraw
Art Unit 3752

TEM



David A. Scherbel
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700